

Form RD 3550-1
(Rev. 4-02)

Form Approved
OMB No. 0575-0172

**United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development
Rural Housing Service**

AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE INFORMATION

TO: _____

RE: _____
Account or Other Identifying Number

Name of Customer

I have applied for or obtained a loan or grant from the Rural Housing Service (RHS), part of the Rural Development mission area of the United States Department of Agriculture. As part of this process or in considering me for interest credit, payment assistance, or other servicing assistance on such loan, RHS may verify information contained in my request for assistance and in other documents required in connection with the request.

I authorize you to provide to RHS for verification purposes the following applicable information:

- Past and present employment or income records.
- Bank account, stock holdings, and any other asset balances.
- Past and present landlord references.
- Other consumer credit references.

If the request is for a new loan or grant, I further authorize RHS to order a consumer credit report and verify other credit information.

I understand that under the Right to Financial Privacy Act of 1978, 12 U.S.C. 3401, et seq., RHS is authorized to access my financial records held by financial institutions in connection with the consideration or administration of assistance to me. I also understand that financial records involving my loan and loan application will be available to RHS without further notice or authorization, but will not be disclosed or released by RHS to another Government agency or department or used for another purpose without my consent except as required or permitted by law.

This authorization is valid for the life of the loan.

The recipient of this form may rely on the Government's representation that the loan is still in existence.

The information RHS obtains is only to be used to process my request for a loan or grant, interest credit, payment assistance, or other servicing assistance. I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Notice to Applicant Regarding Privacy Act Information. I understand that if I have requested interest credit or payment assistance, this authorization to release information will cover any future requests for such assistance and that I will not be renotified of the Privacy Act information unless the Privacy Act information has changed concerning use of such information.

A copy of this authorization may be accepted as an original.

Your prompt reply is appreciated.

Signature

Date

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0575-0172. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 5 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

RHS Is An Equal Opportunity Lender

This form is for Section 502 Single Family Housing very low-, low- and moderate income applicants to authorize release of information from employers, creditors, landlords, commercial banks, etc., to the Rural Housing Service.

- (1) Insert name of addressee.
- (2) Insert applicant's account or other identifying number.
- (3) Insert name of customer.
- (4) Each applicant must sign and date a separate form.

(see reverse)

- PROCEDURE FOR PREPARATION : RD Handbooks 3550.
- PREPARED BY : Field Office personnel
- NUMBER OF COPIES : Original; copies as needed.
- SIGNATURES REQUIRED : Applicant.
- DISTRIBUTIONS OF COPIES : Original to remain in the case file. Copy to the applicant. Copy attached to each verification form as applicable.

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NOTICE TO APPLICANT REGARDING PRIVACY ACT INFORMATION

The information request on this form is authorized to be collected by the Rural Housing Service (RHS), Rural Business-Cooperative Services (RBS), Rural Utilities Service (RUS) or the Farm Service Agency (FSA) ("the agency") by title V of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1471 et seq.) or by the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1921 et seq.), or by other laws administered by RHS, RBS, RUS or FSA. Disclosure of information requested is voluntary. However, failure to disclose certain items of information requested, including your Social Security Number or Federal Identification Number, may result in a delay in the processing of an application or its rejection. Information provided may be used outside of the agency for the following purposes:

1. When a record on its face, or in conjunction with other records, indicates a violation or potential violation of law, whether civil, criminal or regulatory in nature, and whether arising by general statute or particular program statute, or by regulation, rule, or order issued pursuant thereto, disclosure may be made to the appropriate agency, whether Federal, foreign, state, local, or tribal, or other public authority responsible for enforcing, investigating or prosecuting such violation or charged with enforcing or implementing the statute, or rule, regulation, or order issued pursuant thereto, if the information disclosed is relevant to any enforcement, regulatory, investigative, or prosecutive responsibility of the receiving entity.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed to a Member of Congress or to a Congressional staff member in response to an inquiry of the Congressional office made at the written request of the constituent about whom the record is maintained.
3. Disclosures may be made of names, home addresses, social security numbers, and financial information to business firms in a trade area that buy chattel or crops or sell them for commission. This is in order that the agency may benefit from the purchaser notification provisions of section 1324 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 163(c)). The Act requires that potential purchasers of farm commodities must be advised ahead of time that a lien exists in order for the creditor to perfect its lien against such purchases.
4. Disclosures may be made from this system to consumer reporting agencies as defined in the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681a(f)) Federal Claims Collection Act (31 U.S.C. 3701(a)(3)).
5. Disclosure of the name, home address, and information concerning default on loan repayment when the default involves a security interest in tribal allotted or trust land. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1479(d), liquidation may be pursued only after offering to transfer the account to an eligible tribal member, the tribe, or the Indian Housing Authority serving the tribe(s).
6. Referral of names, home addresses, social security numbers, and financial information to a collection or servicing contractor, financial institution, or a local, State, or Federal agency, when the agency determines such referral is appropriate for servicing or collecting the borrower's account or has provided for in contracts with servicing or collection agencies.
7. It shall be a routine use of the records in this system of records to disclose them in a proceeding before a court or adjudicative body, when: (a) the agency or any component thereof; or (b) any employee of the agency in his or her official capacity; or (c) any employee of the agency in his or her individual capacity where the agency has agreed to represent the employee; or (d) the United States is a party to litigation or has an interest in such litigation, and by careful review, the agency determines that the records are both relevant and necessary to the litigation, provided: however, that in each case the agency determines that disclosure of the records is a use of the information contained in the records that is compatible with the purpose for which the agency collected the records.
8. Referral of name, home address, and financial information for selected borrowers to financial consultants, advisors, lending institutions, packagers, agents, and private or commercial credit sources, when the agency determines such referral is appropriate to encourage the borrower to refinance their RHS indebtedness as required by title V of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1471).
9. Referral of legally enforceable debts to the Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service (IRS), to be offset against any tax refund that may become due the debtor for the tax year in which the referral is made, in accordance with the IRS regulations and under the authority contained in 31 U.S.C. 3720A.
10. Referral of information regarding indebtedness to the Defense Manpower Data Center, Department of Defense, and the United States Postal Service for the purpose of conducting computer matching programs to identify and locate individuals receiving Federal salary or benefit payments and who are delinquent in their repayment of debts owed to the U.S. Government under certain programs administered by the agency in order to collect debt under the provisions of the Debt Collection Act of 1982 (5 U.S.C. 5514) by voluntary repayment, administrative or salary offset procedures, or by collection agencies.
11. Referral of names, home addresses, and financial information to lending institutions when the agency determines the individual may be financially capable of qualifying for credit with or without a guarantee.

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12. Disclosure of names, home addresses, social security numbers, and financial information to lending institutions that have a lien against the same property as the agency for the purpose of the collection of the debt by the agency or the other lender. These loans can be under the direct and guaranteed loan programs.

13. Referral to private attorneys under contract with either the agency or with the Department of Justice for the purpose of foreclosure and possession actions and collection of past due accounts, in connection with the agency.

14. It shall be a routine use of the records in this system of records to disclose them to the Department of Justice when: (a) The agency or any component thereof; or (b) any employee of the agency in his or her official capacity where the Department of Justice has agreed to represent the employee; or (c) the United States Government, is a party to litigation or has an interest in such litigation, and by careful review, the agency determines that the records are both relevant and necessary to the litigation and the use of such records by the Department of Justice is therefore deemed by the agency to be for a purpose that is compatible with the purpose for which the agency collected the records.

15. Referral of names, home addresses, social security numbers, and financial information to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as a record of location utilized by Federal agencies for an automatic credit prescreening system.

16. Referral of names, home addresses, social security numbers, and financial information to the Department of Labor, state wage information collection agencies, and other Federal, state, and local agencies, as well as those responsible for verifying information furnished to qualify for Federal benefits, to conduct wage and benefit matching through manual or automated means, for the purpose of determining compliance with Federal regulations and appropriate servicing actions against those not entitled to program benefits, including possible recovery of improper benefits.

17. Referral of names, home addresses, and financial information to financial consultants, advisors, or underwriters, when the agency determines such referral is appropriate for developing packaging and marketing strategies involving the sale of agency loan assets.